

Remarks

Claims 21–25, 32–66, and 68–88 are pending in this application. Claims 31 and 67 have been canceled. New claims 87–88 have been added to more specifically claim the invention. Claims 21–25, 42, 50, 63–64, 66, and 68–86 have been amended. The amended claims are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added. Entry of this amendment is urged to place this application into form for allowance.

Allowable Claims

Claims 32–41 and 59–62 are allowable as the examiner indicated.

Claim 21 incorporates the limitations of claim 31 and should be allowable as the examiner indicated. Claims 22–25, 77, 79, and 84–86 are dependent on claim 21 and should also be allowable.

Claim 66 incorporates the limitations of claim 67 and should be allowable as the examiner indicated. Also, claim 66 has been amended so it should no longer be subject to the examiner's duplicate claim objection under rule 1.75. Claims 68–69, 71, and 75 are dependent on claim 66 and should also be allowable.

Claim 70 has been rewritten into independent form and should be allowable as the examiner indicated. Claim 74 is dependent on claim 70 and should also be allowable.

Claim 72 has been rewritten into independent form and should be allowable as the examiner indicated. Claim 73 is dependent on claim 72 and should also be allowable.

Claim 76 has been rewritten into independent form and should be allowable as the examiner indicated.

Claim 78 has been rewritten into independent form and should be allowable as the examiner indicated. Claims 80–83 are dependent on claim 78 and should also be allowable.

Independent Claims 42, 50, and 63

Claim 42 and its dependents (claims 43–49 and 87), claim 50 and its dependents (claims 51–58 and 88), and claim 63 and its dependents (claims 64–65) should be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 72, which the examiner indicated as allowable.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please contact the signee.

Respectfully submitted,

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